with vertex focimeters. In Part 2 the various forms and design of all the individual lens and prism units of the trial case are discussed in some detail, and the Committee suggests a new basis of design whereby, among other advantages, the aggregate effect of several lenses used in combination can be accurately and quickly ascertained by the practitioner. With regard to plano prisms, it is recommended that the prism dioptre be the unit of prism power and that the deviation be measured for light incident normally at one surface of the prism. For both trial case lenses and prisms the power should be expressed and measured with respect to light of wave-length corresponding to the yellow *d* line of the helium spectrum.

Tramway Museum Society

A Tramway Museum Society has been formed to take over and administer the present collections of historic tramcars and to co-operate with the transport and electrical industries in establishing a representative historical collection of British electric tramcars and equipment in the form of a tramway museum. In the United States are more than a hundred historic electric cars, similar collections exist in the Netherlands, Germany and Scandinavia, and a transport museum has recently been set up in Belfast. It is of particular importance that public vehicles, and especially tramcars, should be preserved in Britain. Further information concerning the Society can be obtained from the honorary secretary, Mr. J. H. Price, 15 Kingslyn Crescent, Upper Norwood, London, S.E.19.

Field Studies and Teaching Methods

To show the part that field studies could play in the teaching of science in schools, a field excursion has been undertaken by a group of graduate students who are reading for the diploma in education at the University College of Swansea (*School Nature Study*, 51 ; October 1956). The students taking part in the field work were geologists, biologists and geographers, and the area selected for investigation was the Oxwich peninsula, which is situated on the south side of the Gower peninsula in west Wales. As the work progressed, it offered ample problems for individual investigations and an appreciation of scientific method. It was generally agreed that such work would be valuable for use in schools. One of the most important points was that much preliminary work was necessary. This entailed not only careful planning in the field by the teacher but also some training beforehand in field methods, preferably on local sample studies, and some background knowledge. In the grammar school such a study should be possible at advanced level. Some of the examining boards require individual or group investigation work, and this type of study would be eminently suitable. At a more junior level, the importance of this type of work cannot be over-stressed.

Industrial Engineering at Loughborough College

Among the courses being presented at Loughborough College of Technology is a one-year residential postgraduate course in industrial engineering, intended for senior personnel from all branches of industry. The course, which offers advanced educational and training facilities for production administration and management, is open to graduates in science or holders of the Higher National Certificate in engineering with at least one year's industrial experience, who are nominated by their respective companies. Students qualifying by examination at the end of the year will be awarded the Associateship of Loughborough College (A.L.C.) in industrial engineering. The course includes lectures on industrial, financial, factory and personnel management, automation, nuclear energy, work study, statistics, economics, law, industrial psychology and production development, design and distribution. Inquiries should be addressed to the Head of the Department of Industrial Engineering, College of Technology, Loughborough.

British Council Courses for Overseas Specialists

More than seven hundred overseas specialists are expected to visit the United Kingdom this year to take part in courses organized by the British Council in conjunction with British organizations, including universities, government departments and learned societies. Twenty-nine courses of from two to three weeks duration have been arranged, to take place in nineteen centres in Britain between February and next January. Because of their popularity in previous years, the Council is repeating a number of courses, and several subjects have been included in the programme for the first time. Among these are radioisotopes in medicine, diseases in poultry, and the uses of concrete and of digital computers. The British Council also assists in receiving applications for summer schools organized by the Universities of Birmingham, London and Oxford and by the Scottish universities, intended primarily for postgraduate students from the United States, European and Commonwealth universities.

Leverhulme Associates of the Royal Society of Medicine

The Council of the Royal Society of Medicine, through the generosity of the Trustees of the Leverhulme Trust Fund, is able to appoint annually one hundred Leverhulme Associates who, without payment of any subscription, enjoy nearly all the privileges of Fellows of the Society. Men and women are eligible provided that they are not already Fellows of the Royal Society of Medicine ; that they hold a full-time clinical or non-clinical teaching or research appointment in a medical, dental or veterinary department of a British university ; and that their total income from academic or professional sources does not exceed £1,500 per annum. Awards are for one year in the first instance, and may be extended annually to a maximum of three years. Forms of application may be obtained from the deans of medical schools or from the Secretary, Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London, W.1.

Society of General Microbiology

The twenty-fourth general meeting of the Society of General Microbiology will be held in the Royal Institution, Albemarle Street, London, W.1, during April 15–17. On April 15 there will be morning and afternoon sessions for the presentation of original papers, and at 6 p.m. the third Marjory Stephenson Memorial Lecture will be given by Dr. André Lwoff, of the Pasteur Institute, Paris. This Lecture will be given in the Royal Institution and will be open to non-members. The subject will be "The Notion of Virus". During April 16 and 17 there will be a symposium on "Microbial Ecology". The principal

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